

In each and every moment, my thoughts and prayers have been with all of the victims and their families as they begin the long road to healing and recovery. They must understand that we are with them.

We are with you. You are not alone. We love you, and we are praying for your safety and recovery.

REMEMBERING XAVIER OMARI JOY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, on a June summer evening in Chicago, Illinois, in my district on the south side, a young man, 23 years old, was shot down, killed, and robbed of his cell phone, which was a nonsensical killing.

Xavier Omari Joy was a teacher of our city, State, and Nation. He was given so much potential. He carried with him so much promise, and in his heart breathed so much purpose and dedication.

□ 1030

Mr. Speaker, he spoke these words: "Living in Woodlawn and working at the South Side YMCA, I know the pitfalls and challenges my community faces. I strive to help the youth in my community by being a positive role model. I want to tangibly connect and aid youth to positively progress as students."

These were the words spoken by Xavier Omari Joy, a young man whose life was ended last Thursday.

Xavier graduated from one of Chicago's premier high schools, the Whitney M. Young High School. He played football for a year at the Harvard of the African American in the south, Morehouse College.

Mr. Speaker, in the year 2014, Xavier joined City Year Chicago as a volunteer. City Year is a program of AmeriCorps, whose purpose is to send young mentors into underserved communities to be of help, to provide guidance, and most importantly of all, to provide meaningful, substantive examples.

Xavier had so much promise, potential, and so much personality. He could walk into a room and the room would just light up. Friends always knew that they could come to Xavier to get a compassionate hearing of their issues and their problems. If you were down for a moment, hey, Xavier could lift you up for the rest of the day.

He didn't get to be this kind of excellent individual by accident. He was born into a family of community-conscious people. His father, Ra Joy, is the executive director of CHANGE Illinois, a coalition leading systemic political and development action. His mother, Nykea Pippion-McGriff, is the first African-American woman president of the Women's Council of Realtors in Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I come here today to honor and ask the Members of this Chamber to honor the life and the memory of Xavier Joy.

Xavier, our Nation, our community, and the people in the First Congressional District of Illinois will not let your death be in vain. We want to extend the promise, the potential, and the purpose of your life into the lives of all the young people in our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, "Living in Woodlawn and working at the Southside YMCA, I know the pitfalls and challenges my community faces. I strive to help the youth in my community by being a positive role model. I want to tangibly connect and aid youth to positively progress as students."

These were the words of Xavier Omari Joy who was murdered on the streets of Chicago on June 8th.

After graduating from one of Chicago's top high schools, Whitney Young, and playing college football for a year at Morehouse, Xavier returned home to the South Side.

In 2014, Xavier joined City Year Chicago, an AmeriCorps program that sends mentors into Chicago's most under-served schools to provide guidance and examples for youth.

Just 23 years old, Xavier envisioned a career as an elected official. He saw this as another way to directly impact his community and his city.

He was born into a family of community conscious parents. His father, Ra Joy is the executive director of CHANGE Illinois, a coalition leading systemic political and government reform. His mother, Nykea Pippion-Griff is the first elected African American woman president of the Women's Council of Realtors Chicago.

He further served his community as a tutor and mentor at the YMCA, as well as several schools in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Xavier made his life about giving back and ensuring that children had a positive male role model.

We will always remember Xavier's dedication to others, warmth, confidence, and benevolent spirit.

It is his loss of life that brought me to the House floor today. There are too many names, too many lives taken far too soon in my city, Chicago.

There is a perverse spirit rampant in our nation where life no longer carries its value.

That was demonstrated yesterday with the Alexandria shooting that wounded Majority Whip STEVE SCALISE, Capitol Police Special Agents Crystal Griner and David Bailey, Congressional Staffer Zachary Barth, and lobbyist Matt Mika.

Life is valuable and we need to cherish its meaning.

As a father whose son was also killed by gun violence, I can empathize with Nykea's family and all the families across my district and the Nation who have experienced this tragedy. No parent should have to experience a loss such as this.

Xavier was the type of young man that we all want our children to grow up to be and his life was taken while doing something so many Americans take for granted every day: returning home from work.

My thoughts and prayers are with Nykea's family and the families across America who mourn those lost to senseless violence.

We deserve better. We are better.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, thank You for giving us another day. In Your presence, dark nights of challenges are dispelled by the dawn of Your love, and You know our needs before we express them.

Thank You for daily providing our lawmakers with guidance and strength.

We pause to thank You for the courage and sacrificial service of our Capitol Police. Forgive us when we take their daily courageous service for granted.

Forgive us also when we seem to forget that words matter and can become seeds that will bring a bitter harvest.

Bring speedy healing to our brother STEVE SCALISE, and all those injured in yesterday's shooting. Bring peace and solace to all those affected by yesterday's tragedy.

Today, use the Members of this people's House as instruments of Your peace, bringing unity from division, light from darkness, joy from sadness, and hope from despair.

Dear God, continue to bless America, and may all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CRAWFORD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.